

From: Michael Howell [mailto:mrhowkey@charter.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2006 5:29 AM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov; mlpa@livingseaimages.com
Subject: MLPAComments: Package 2

March 5, 2006

Dear Sirs:

I received an email last night from Marc Shargel, John R. Wolfe's assistant. I'd like all who are gracious enough to take the time to read my comments to consider them carefully and thoughtfully. Thank you in advance for your time and hopefully your vote on Package 2.

I've been a certified diver since 1975, (1 year out of High School) dove only the Monterey Bay area from 1975-84. In those days I had little else but an old truck or an old car and could barely scrap together gas money to get over to the Monterey Bay and dive. During the nine years that followed our SCUBA certification, my buddy and I were exclusively shore divers. There's something magical about being poor and yet being made so rich just by witnessing the abundance of life in the sea. My wife asked me to give up the sport when our 1st of 3 sons were born in 1984, and I willingly complied.

Almost 20 years passed and I, with my wife's blessing, picked the sport back up. I became re-certified at the same dive shop (Aquarius Dive Shop on Del Monte Ave.) in Sept 2003 and have continued to further my diving education. I'm currently working on my Divemasters rating thru the PADI system.

The reason I've taken the time to give a brief introduction is because I now help other new divers learn to experience the wonders down below.

In the over 30 years that have passed I've witnessed a substantial decline in the size and quantity of fish that are close to shore. I'm grieved by what I see and hope that you all will come to understand my point of view. Spear fishing contests don't go hand in hand with what's really important and so awesome about what we call our diving home.

Sincerely
Michael Howell